

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please substitute the following abstract for the abstract in the application:

~~The present invention relates to a method and system for modifying images characterized in that it includes the ability to assign colour intensity values to pixels exposed during image manipulation operations comprising:~~

~~means for using the color intensity values of remaining pixels in the original image, and~~

~~means for assigning color values to the exposed pixels that are similar to those of the surrounding pixels so that the exposed regions blends smoothly with the surrounding region.~~

~~The instant invention also provides a configured computer program product for carrying out the above method.~~

A system, method, and program storage device implementing the method for modifying images has the ability to assign color intensity values to pixels exposed during image manipulation operations. The method comprises using the color intensity values of remaining pixels in the original image, and assigning color values to the exposed pixels that are similar to those of the surrounding pixels so that the exposed regions blend smoothly with the surrounding region.